

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

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THEDFORD, NE
69166
PERMIT No. 11

UPPER LOUP SCOOP

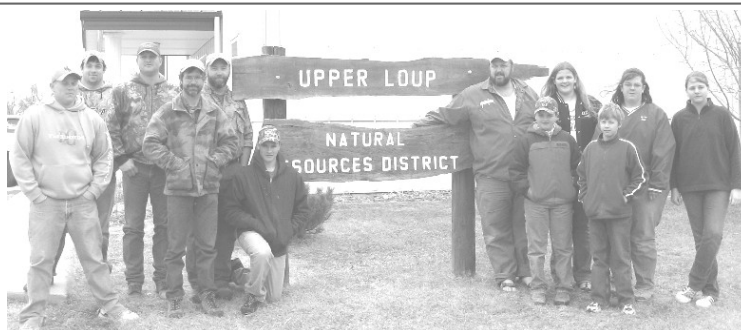
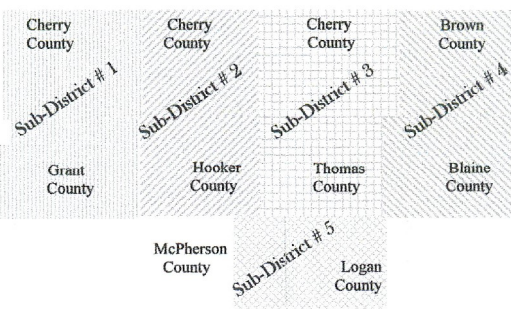
Volume 3, Issue 2 March 2008 Upper Loup NRD Box 212 Thedford NE 69166 308 645-2250 ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org

Upper Loup NRD Staff

Anna Baum	General Manager
Jack Brummet	Resource Technician
Kyle Yrkoski	Resource Technician
Leslie Reiser	Administrative Secretary
Sandy Booth	Information & Education
Cleo Jacobs	Thedford Field Office

Upper Loup NRD Board of Directors

Subdistrict 1	Ginger Fouse & Eric Storer
Subdistrict 2	Steve Boyer & Judy Ridenour
Subdistrict 3	Gary Schaeffer & Wayne Eatinger
Subdistrict 4	Byron Cox & Gordon Simonson
Subdistrict 5	Louis Jacobson & Travis Hansen
At Large	Wynn Wiens



Bow Hunter Education Course

Nine Bow Hunters were certified March 22 at the ULNRD in Thedford. All big game bow hunters born on or after January 1, 1977 must carry on their person a card issued by the NE Game and Parks Commission showing they have successfully completed this training. Ray Dierking, Game Warden, Marty Baxter, Brad Ballenger all of Broken Bow & Dan Wadas of Thedford were the US Game & Parks certified instructors.

Participants were schooled and tested in points of safety, challenges and motivation. Other topics covered in the training included wildlife and habitat conservation, planning a hunt, point of shot and proper equipment use. During the field day, students had to demonstrate that they possessed the necessary knowledge and skills to become certified.

The total licensed hunters in the US is over 14 million of which 36% have hunted with a bow in the last 2 years. 57% of all bow hunting takes place on private land. Active bow hunters hunt an average of 19 days a year. ULNRD will offer the certification course again in the fall.

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In what ways can the ULNRD better serve you and get the information out to you about ground water issues, educational practices, state requirements or just general information.
ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org or 308 645-2250 or contact us through the website at www.upperloupnrd.org

The Upper Loup NRD

is willing to provide classroom presentations to students K-12 on a variety of topics such as conservation, pollution, water, trees, wild life, etc. The district can also give presentations to communities and any other interested organizations. The District is planning a "get to know you're NRD" night this fall, more information on this when it becomes available.



Boater Safety Course

The Upper Loup NRD will host a 6 hour boater safety course May 29, 2008 at the Thedford office. The instructor will be Scott Eveland, Boating Safety Officer for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The Nebraska Boating Safety course is required of any motor boat operators, including personal watercraft, under the age of 18. The minimum age to operate a boat in Nebraska is 14. Please register before May 23, 2008.



TWO NO-TILL DRILLS FOR RENT

The Upper Loup NRD has for rent two (2) No-till 10' Great Plains Drills. Rental rates for the No-Till drills are \$6.00 an acre. The District also has a 4 Row Buffalo Inter-seeder for rent at \$4.00 an acre. Delivery charge is \$45.00 and all sales taxes apply. If you would like to rent any of the drills please call the office and ask for Jack. 308 645-2250

No-till implementation has positive impacts on:

- * **Soil Health**· Continuous no-till increases organic matter which improves infiltration, increases biological and microbial activity, and reduces compaction resulting in improved soil health.
- * **Water Quality**· Increased surface cover and infiltration reduce runoff contaminants in surface waters.
- * **Net Farm Income**· Reduced labor, fuel, and equipment needs work together to improve profitability.

No-till drills provides a necessary tool in stabilizing fragile stream banks, creating herbaceous buffers to prevent pesticides and nutrients from entering our aquifer and streams, as well as enhancing both livestock production and valuable wildlife habitat.

ITEMS FOR SALE



* 12' Melroe Drill with 7" spacing, alfalfa box, double disk opener, hydraulic cylinder and packer wheels. Book and some parts are available.

* Donahue Implement Carrier. Bed size is 9'10" x 28', 10,000 pounds capacity.

* 20" Computer Monitor Professional Series. View Sonic Computer Monitor. P220F. Purchased 2004. This is a very nice large monitor, if you have the desk room, it's just what you need to really get into those online games!

*Color Bubble Jet Printer/Copier/Scanner MultiPASS F30. With manual and quick start guide. Purchased 9/4/2002. Like new, office Printer/Copier/Scanner.



www.upperlounpnr.org

Check out our web site to learn about NRD services and programs, to download permits and applications plus take in the latest news.

The ULNRD has gopher bait on hand for purchase by those individuals holding a current pesticide applicators license. If you need to become certified contact your local Extension Office for details.

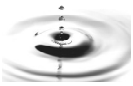
The District has a gopher machine that it rents for \$15 a day.

Protect those newly planted trees, shrubs and flowers. This product is 100% natural & lasts up to 4 months in the summer and 6 months in the winter. Plantskydd is available as a spray, powder concentrate and granule. The products work well in controlling small critters like rabbits, squirrels, voles, gophers, chipmunks, possum and others, plus larger animals like deer. Plantskydd is economical, user friendly and can be used on and around a wide variety of plant species.

Jack has been out in the field checking the static water levels on 101 designated wells throughout the District. The static water level is the elevation of the water table in a well when the pump is not operating and is not being affected by withdrawal of groundwater, it is the distance from the land surface (or the measuring point) to the water. Static water levels can be influenced by climatic conditions and pumping of nearby wells. Levels are measured in the spring and fall to gain information about how aquifers react to climatic change and development. Jack has history on fall static water levels dating back to 1972 and on spring static water levels since 2004.

Counties where the static water levels are up this spring include: Blaine .21', Brown 56', Logan .04', and McPherson .20'. Counties that are down are Cherry .36', Grant .11', Hooker, .62' and Thomas .82'.

Jack would like to remind all irrigators to please keep track of the hours on their irrigation motors for reporting water use in the fall to the NRD.



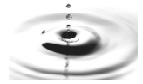
UPPER LOUP NRD RECIEVES PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF GRANT

ULNRD has received word that it has preliminary approval of a grant submitted to the Environmental Trust earlier this year. The project consists of the Development of a Hydrogeologic Framework for selected areas of the Upper Loup River Basin. The project length is scheduled over three years. In a collaborative effort with US Geological Survey and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Conservation & Survey Division the Upper Loup NRD plans to drill test holes and install monitoring wells with related geophysical surveys to gather information on aquifer properties and to provide long term monitoring facilities in vital areas of the District.

The ULNRD has a critical need for data on the groundwater and surface water system within their district. The Sand Hills holds one of the most important aquifer systems in the state with sensitive and fragile ecosystems. Concerns about changes in water availability, groundwater-surface water relationships and water quality has prompted the District to expand its data collection and analysis for its water management program.

The District is currently participating in the development of the Elkhorn-Loup Model as one of the tools being developed for management purposes. Early in development of the model it became clear that the sand hills area and the south-east corner of the District have little in the way of geologic test holes and water level data. These areas contain very important aquifers to the District and the State. Water quality data is even scarcer, but the District plans to begin an improved program of water quality sampling with the help of this grant.

Water quality data is an important function of the District and dedicated monitoring wells can provide the unaltered samples from distinct zones in the aquifer. Hydrogeologic characterization from test holes and geophysical survey, monitoring well installation and water level-water quality information will be a large part of the districts responsibility in improving the water management plan and protecting water resources.



Dripial Pursuit Answers; 1) true, 2) 4 inches, 3) watershed, 4) 2%, 5) hydrograph, 6) true, 7) 60%, 8) 6 ft. 9) about 50%, 10) yes



Upper Loup NRD to Spearhead All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

Public entities face a continuous threat from natural disasters such as severe thunderstorms, intense winds and tornados, flooding, winter snow and ice storms, fire, drought and others. These catastrophic events can cost a community millions of dollars in property damages and have the potential for loss of human lives. For that reason, the Upper Loup NRD Board of Directors took action to team up with all the entities within the District for development of a regional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This planning effort will help local entities assess community hazards and risks, prepare them for local disasters and position them for financial resources to aid in projects which reduce the potential for damage and loss of life. The process will also generate hazard mapping tools that can be used by the local Emergency Management Directors to better monitor community vulnerability.

New rules of the Federal Emergency Management Agency require that a public entity must be a part of an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible for Federal funding for cleanup and restoration following a natural disaster.

Entities may also identify projects that they wish to initiate right away to prevent potential damage or reduce risks. The list of eligible projects is broad, and may include: weather radio distribution to critical facilities, fire control management, emergency electrical supplies, emergency tornado shelters, storm water projects, bridge protection, and flood plain mapping.

The ULNRD has hired JEO of Lincoln for assistance in developing and assembling the plan. The cost of the planning is being covered by a 75% grant from FEMA and 25% from local sponsors, however, much of the local costs will be achieved through in-kind services.

Anna Baum, Manager of Upper Loup NRD notes, "This regional planning effort will be a valuable and proactive tool for our communities and will position them for financial aid in the event of a natural disaster. It may be the most important process our entities are involved in for quite some time."

Each participating entity should plan to send a representative to either of the important scheduled meetings. The All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Identification meetings are Monday, April 28, 2008 at the Upper Loup NRD office in Thedford 7:00 p.m. CST and Tuesday April 29, 2008 at 7:00 pm MT at the Village office in Mullen. Everyone from the general public is encouraged to come.



Meet the Administrative Secretary



Upper Loup Natural Resource District is pleased to introduce Leslie Reiser as the Administrative Secretary. Leslie was born in Brownlee, Nebraska. She moved

with her family south of Cody until they moved to Valentine where she graduated high school. Leslie and Russ Reiser were married in 1990 and they moved to Brownlee later that year. She has been employed by the Roadside Inn since 2001. Russ started working for Pearson Livestock Inc. in 2003 and the family has resided in Thedford since 2006. Leslie and Russ have five children and four grandchildren.

NERain Volunteers needed

If you are a weather enthusiast and would like to volunteer for the NeRAIN Program contact the Upper Loup NRD 308-645-2250 and visit with Kyle! Volunteers will receive a new quality rain gauge, installation and brief training to record data. Being a volunteer requires just a few minutes each day to report readings from your gauge! You can report by computer, calling into the office or mailing in monthly totals. The District could definitely use volunteers in BROWN and BLAINE Counties.

Test your water knowledge with Dripial Pursuit

1. Water can absorb five times as much heat as land before changing temperature? True or false?
2. How thick does ice have to be to support a human?
3. What's another name for drainage basin?
4. How much of the world's water is found in glaciers?
5. What is the name of a chart showing water level changes measured for a period of time?
6. Aquifers around the world contain nearly 50 times as much water as lakes and rivers. True or false?
7. Today, one in how many homes in the US uses bottled water as a primary source of drinking water?
8. How deep is a fathom?
9. At any one time, roughly how much of the Earth is covered with some type of cloud?
10. Are the oceans connected? (answers are on page 3)



Arbor Day April 25

Upper Loup NRD donates trees and holds a tree presentation for all 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grade classes throughout the district.

The seedlings should be planted as soon as possible.

Potted vs Bareroot

Potted trees are easier to handle and more forgiving when it comes to planting. The roots on potted won't dry out as quickly because they have moist soil around their roots unlike the bareroots. Potted trees are easier to plant because all you need to do is poke a hole in the ground and plant the tree. Bareroots require a larger hole in the ground due to their large root mass. With bareroots you also need to make sure the roots are straight and that none of the roots are exposed.

With any type of replant the most important things to remember are # 1, keep the roots moist prior to planting. Spray them with water DO NOT soak them in water for that can actually drown the tree. #2, after planting be sure to pack the soil around the root to eliminate any air pockets, this can be done easily by using the heel of your shoe.



This is the first year Kyle is offering potted trees along with bare root. He has red cedar, Juniper and ponderosa pine trees. The potted trees are for sale at .99 a piece with tax.

Upcoming Events

April 2008

- 10 - Upper Loup NRD Board Meeting (Thedford)
- 22 - Earth Day
- 25 - Arbor Day
- 28 - Public Meeting at ULNRD Office/Thedford on Hazard ID
- 29 - Public Meeting at Village Office/Mullen 7 MT on Hazard ID

May 2008

- 3 - Envirothon at Bessey Forest
- 8 - Upper Loup NRD Board Meeting (Thedford)
- 13 - NE Children's Groundwater Festival (Grand Island)
- 29 - Boater Safety Course at NRD Office (Thedford)
- 26 - Holiday/Office Closed

June 2008

- 12 - Upper Loup NRD Board Meeting (Thedford)

Chemigation & Permit training

Chemigation is a viable practice. Chemigation is the term commonly used to describe the practice of applying agrichemicals (i.e. fertilizer-including livestock waste, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) through an irrigation distribution system. Some of the advantages of chemigation are;

- * Prescription fertilizer application
- * The practice allows spoon-feeding of crops close to periods of peak nitrogen demand
- * The crop roots and leaves will absorb the fertilizer immediately, reducing potential nitrogen losses due to leaching or runoff
- * Easy chemical activation
- * Most chemicals are activated by water in the irrigation system
- * Economical and effective
- * Reduced chemical use and precision applications offer the opportunity for production savings. These savings can be reflected in time and crop production expenses, a win-win situation for the producer.
- * Applying chemicals or fertilizer through chemigation can provide excellent uniformity and effectiveness.

There are potential risks to our natural resources and public safety issues when using chemigation therefore; all chemigation systems must be fitted with the proper safety valves and equipment. This equipment must be inspected by the Upper Loup NRD prior to use to assure functionality and compliance.

If you are considering chemigation, the operator must first obtain a permit from the Upper Loup NRD. Chemigation renewal permits cost \$10 and must be submitted to the Upper Loup NRD. An irrigation system that has not been renewed prior to the June 1 deadline cannot apply chemicals through the system until a new permit is obtained. New chemigation permits cost \$30 and the applicant cannot use the system until it passes a mandatory inspection. To pass inspection the mainline check valve must not have any sort of leak when there is water in the system. This prevents a chemical solution from seeping back down the well and into the groundwater.

Operators must also have proper chemigation training to certify that they prepared to apply chemicals through the irrigation system. Chemigation training has been held through the Central Sandhills Extension office. Additional trainings will be held March 7, April 3 and May 1 at 1:00 p.m., North Platte West Central Research and Extension Center.

